

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

By Cobb J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Laura Oakley on her receipt of the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce's ATHENA Award.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly welcomes the opportunity to support gender equity in all facets of society and commends individuals and organizations that work to create leadership opportunities for women, thus permitting society to benefit from the particular characteristics and qualities that women bring to leadership roles in business, government, the arts and sciences, or any other realm of human endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the ATHENA Foundation is one such dynamic organization, which, since 1982, has worked with hundreds of communities to encourage and acknowledge women in leadership positions; the ATHENA Award program inspires the achievement of professional excellence by honoring outstanding leaders; and

WHEREAS, the individuals honored by such awards actively assist women in realizing their full leadership potential; demonstrate excellence, creativity, and initiative in their business or profession; and provide valuable public service by contributing time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community; and

WHEREAS, this year's Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce ATHENA Award recipient, Laura Oakley, is one such estimable woman who evinces the qualities of courage, strength, wisdom, and harmony; and

WHEREAS, for Mrs. Oakley, helping her fellow citizens takes the form of serving as a board member of business and civic organizations, running for public office, starting two businesses, becoming involved in local causes, and volunteering within her community; and

WHEREAS, while working in California during the 1990s, Laura Oakley first encountered the issue of advancement of women, when she met women who worked in the accounting part of her company with no chance of promotion. To remedy the situation, Mrs. Oakley organized accounting classes for the women to take during their lunch hour to work toward a degree; and

WHEREAS, in the Soddy-Daisy area, Laura Oakley is taking it upon herself to spread the word about the benefits of the proposed toll bridge connecting North Hamilton County to Harrison and I-75; she is also Co-Chair of the Rails to Trails advocacy group; and

WHEREAS, she is currently a board member of the Soddy-Daisy/North Hamilton County Chamber Council, which she led as President in 2006 and helped found in 2005; and

WHEREAS, a consummate professional of the utmost integrity, Mrs. Oakley has demonstrated dedication to advancing women throughout her life; she is recognized for her social consciousness and as an effective advocate for women; and

WHEREAS, she has worked assiduously to advance her community and has been unwavering in her commitment to helping women meet their full potential; and

WHEREAS, wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee fame as the "Volunteer State," Laura Oakley should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Laura Oakely, a woman of great integrity, ability, and compassion, on her meritorious service to the citizens of this State, congratulate her upon being honored with the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce's ATHENA Award, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.